

York-based Indian-American newspaper, reported that the government is paying 200,000 rupees to the families of Hindu victims of the Gujarat violence and just 100,000 rupees—half as much—to the families of Muslim victims.

In addition, Mr. Mansingh flatly rejected holding the referendum on the independence of Kashmir that India promised the United Nations it would hold in 1948 and also rejected a free and fair plebiscite on independence in Punjab, Khalistan. He simply ignored the other countries like predominantly Christian Nagaland which also seek their independence. If India is the democracy it claims to be, then why are there 17 freedom movements within its borders? If there is no support for independence in Punjab, Khalistan, as India claims, then why not just hold a free and fair vote and prove it? If that claim is true, then it should be massively rejected, shouldn't it? What is India afraid of?

Instead, India has killed over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984, according to *The Politics of Genocide* by Inderjit Singh Jaijee, who gathered these figures from figures put out by the Punjab State Magistracy, which represents the judiciary of Punjab. It has also killed over 75,000 Kashmiri Muslims, more than 200,000 Christians in Nagaland and tens of thousands of other minorities. According to the Movement Against State Repression, 52,268 Sikh political prisoners are still being detained in Indian jails.

Mr. Speaker, America is founded on the idea of freedom. We believe in freedom for ourselves and all the people of the world. We should work to bring real freedom to all the peoples and nations of South Asia. To do so, we should stop American aid to India until it respects basic human rights and we should continue to call for a free and fair vote on independence for the people of Kashmir, of Punjab, Khalistan, of Nagaland, and all the other peoples seeking their freedom.

Mr. Speaker, Gurmit Singh Aulakh, the President of the Council of Khalistan, wrote an excellent letter to the *Washington Times* refuting the false statements of Mr. Mansingh. I would like to place it in the *RECORD* at this time to help set the *RECORD* straight about what is really going on in India.

[From the *Washington Times*, May 19, 2002]

#### INDIA DOESN'T ACT LIKE A DEMOCRACY

In his May 14 Embassy Row column, James Morrison reports that Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh is accusing Reps. Dan Burton, Edolphus Towns and Cynthia A. McKinney of spreading "false, hurtful" information about India. This is ludicrous. Mr. Morrison has been sent the proof of the statements that Mr. Mansingh questions, yet he made no apparent effort to get the other side. He should stop repeating Mr. Mansingh's disinformation.

We understand that tyrants are hurt when their crimes are exposed. Yet they do not show any concern for the rights of minorities. Last year, a member of the Indian Cabinet said everyone who lives in India must either be Hindu or be subservient to Hindus. The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS), which was formed in 1925 in support of the fascist and is the parent organization of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party, published a booklet on how to implicate Christians and other minorities in fake criminal cases. Yet Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee told an audience in New York City, "I will always be a Swayamsevak." This belies Mr. Mansingh's

claim that "[a]ll citizens of India . . . enjoy equal rights and equal protection of law."

Mr. Mansingh might want to explain that to the 250,000 Sikhs who have been murdered by his government. This figure is documented. It was published in "The Politics of Genocide" by Inderjit Singh Jaijee and derived from figures first used by the Punjab State Magistracy, which represents the judiciary of Punjab.

Further, a study by the Movement Against State Repression showed that the Indian government admitted to holding 52,268 Sikh political prisoners under the very repressive so-called Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act (TADA), which expired in 1995. Amnesty International reported that tens of thousands of other minorities also are being held as political prisoners. Mr. Mansingh undoubtedly is aware of these facts.

Mr. Mansingh is not telling the truth about the massacres in Gujarat. A recent report from Human Rights Watch showed that the massacres were planned in advance. The *New York Times* reported that the police stood aside while militant Hindu nationalists attacked and murdered Muslims in Gujarat, an act reminiscent of the Delhi massacres of Sikhs in 1984, in which Sikh police were confined to their barracks while the state-run radio and television called for more Sikh blood. According to published reports in India, a police officer in Gujarat said the police were ordered to stand aside.

Mr. Mansingh disputes Miss McKinney's statement that in India, a Hindu life is worth twice as much as a Muslim life. He claims Hindu and Muslim families who were victimized by the Gujarat massacre are receiving equal compensation. Yet according to *News India-Times*, the Indian government is paying out 200,000 rupees each to the families of Hindus who were killed but just 100,000 rupees to the family of each Muslim killed. Mr. Mansingh knows this, yet he uses his two high-powered lobbying firms to spin dis-information at gullible reporters such as Mr. Morrison.

Despite India's claim to be democratic, Mr. Mansingh rejected the referendum on the status of Kashmir that India promised in 1948, which still has not been held. Despite India's boast that it is democratic and its claim that there is no support for independence in Punjab, Khalistan, he also rejects a free and fair vote on the issue there. He does not even mention the 15 other nations, such as Christian Nagaland, which are seeking their freedom from India. How can a democratic country reject settling issues by a free and fair vote?

Also, Mr. Mansingh does not even address the fact that the U.S. State Department recently put India on its watch list of countries that violate religious freedom.

India is not a democracy; it is a Hindu fundamentalist theocracy. The United States should work for the release of all political prisoners and halt its aid to this repressive, tyrannical state until all people enjoy their God-given human rights. We also should support freedom for all the nations of South Asia through a free and fair vote. That is the only way to bring democracy, peace, freedom and stability to the region.

GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,  
PRESIDENT, COUNCIL OF  
*Khalistan, Washington.*

#### TRIBUTE TO DUANE SCOTT SPENCER

#### HON. ROBERT L. EHRLICH, JR.

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. EHRLICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to the attention of this body the passing of Mr. Duane Scott Spencer. Mr. Spencer is an unsung American hero.

Duane Spencer's life was cut short on July 9, 2002, at the age of 36, when he died in an automobile accident while driving home from volunteering at a homeless veterans' shelter, "The Home of the Brave." Mr. Spencer dedicated his life to the empowerment and progress of others through his commitment to the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and educational efforts on behalf of people with disabilities.

Born on July 12, 1965, in Havre de Grace, Maryland, Duane Spencer was the son of Earl "Dean" Spencer and Elsie "Bobbie" Stephens Spencer. Upon his graduation from high school, Mr. Spencer served his country as a member of the 82nd Airborne Division U.S. Paratroopers in Fort Bragg, North Carolina until an accident that left him paralyzed.

Duane overcame this hardship, becoming a tireless disability advocate, teacher, and role model.

Duane Spencer did not know the meaning of the word "handicapped." As sports director for the Delaware/Maryland PVA he organized and participated in wheel chair basketball and softball, received countless gold and silver medals in the PVA games, and enjoyed trapshooting and fishing. Duane served on the Delaware/Maryland PVA board of directors for several years and later became the Volunteer Liaison Officer for the PVA National Office here in Washington, DC. In this role, he was a frequent visitor to Capitol Hill, advocating for veterans, paralyzed veterans, and the disabled.

Duane will be missed. In addition to his parents, he is survived by his wife of 13 years, Nancy J. Spencer, his step-daughter, Adena J. Hash, two grandsons, Ryan A. and Trent B. Johnson, and sisters Robin and Sherrie Spencer.

The state of Maryland and our great Nation are proud to recognize individuals, such as Mr. Spencer, who overcome and rise above hardship, challenge the concept of personal limitations, and demonstrate true courage. Duane Spencer broke barriers in his life while volunteering to help others. In death, as in life, Duane is an American hero.

#### ESSENTIAL MEDICINES FOR MEDICARE ACT OF 2002

#### HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, July 25, 2002*

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, it has been three years since Congress began in earnest to address the issue of prescription drug coverage in the Medicare program. The problems we have faced in creating a drug benefit demonstrate that the solution will be both complex and expensive. America's seniors will be